

Remarks

The Official Action of December 16, 2003 included a requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 to provide information related to "rigidity."

The response filed on May 11, 2004 was believed to be responsive to this requirement since "rigidity" was deleted from the claims. Since "rigidity" was no longer part of the claimed subject matter, it was believed that there was no longer a need to provide the requested information. Applicant's response did not explicitly state that deletion of "rigidity" from the claims was responsive to this requirement, and it was perhaps perceived that the requirement was being ignored. This was not the case at all. The requirement was very much in mind when amending the claims and omission of an explicit statement that the requirement was met by amending the claims was an inadvertent oversight that is resolved in this supplemental response.

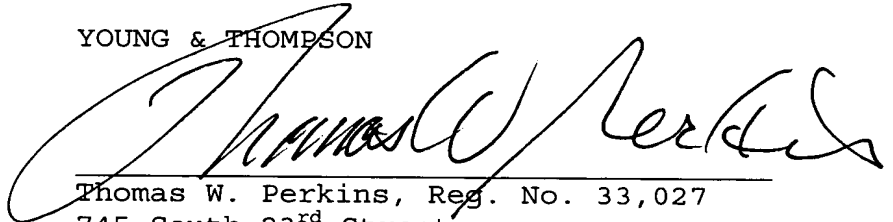
In response to the requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 to provide information related to "rigidity," applicant hereby states that the requirement for information was met by amending the claims so that the requirement is no longer relevant. That is, the deletion of "rigidity" from the claims means that this term no longer has to be defined in order for one of skill in the art to know how to make the device being claimed.

In addition, applicant does not have or cannot readily obtain the required information. As noted in the Official Action, this statement is a complete reply to the requirement.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over a horizontal line.

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